

Grizzly

Vol. 1 No. 10 April 2007

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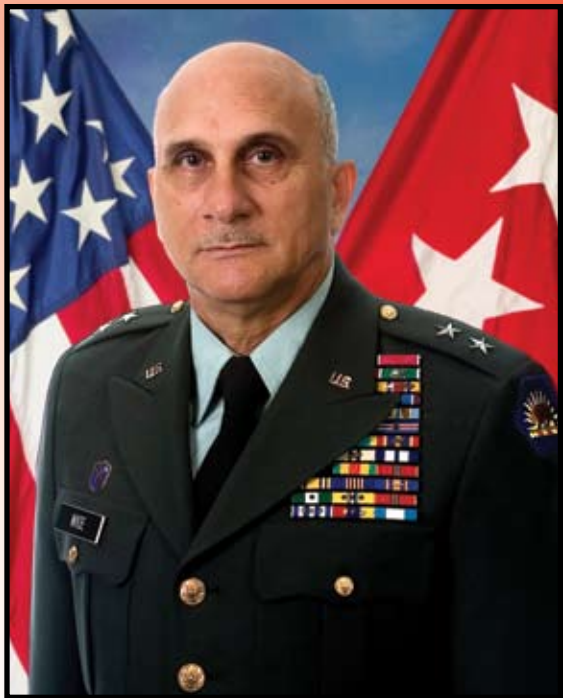
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Official Newsletter of the California National Guard

California National Guard Leadership



Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II



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Air Division



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Robert W. Delaney

- Vision -

California's Professional Military Force Serving Our State and Nation Always Ready, Always There

Mission Statements

A community based
land force maintained
at the optimum level
of preparedness and
readiness for service to
the state and nation

California Army National Guard

A ready, reliable and
revelant force, now
and in the future.

California Air National Guard

A Ready Force, providing
the highest quality support
to the ARNG, the ANG and
the Joint Staff serving
California.

California State Military Reserve

Grizzly Newsletter

Vol 1. No. 10 April 2007
The Official Newsletter of the
California National Guard

Publisher

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From the Editor,

If you have a story or event, that you would like featured in the Grizzly, you now have two options. You can submit an article as a feature story or you can send a 'blurb' for 'At a Glance.' Follow these simple guidelines:

Pictures - must tell a story, avoid posed or 'family portrait' style and be highest resolution possible.

For 'At a Glance' write five to six sentences that states the why, what, when, who and where. Remember to include photographer credit and identify personnel in picture - Rank and CORRECT SPELLING of names. If you need help constructing an article, just email me at mirtha.villarreal@us.army.mil. We can run just about anything that deals with California National

Articles:

- ★ 250 – 300 words for half a page, 600-800 words for full page article.
- ★ Include first and last names, and *verify spelling*
- ★ If there is a Public Affairs officer assigned to your unit ensure he/she reviews it.

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible, minimum 300 dpi
- ★ Credits (who took photograph)
- ★ Cutline (what action is taking place in the photograph and identify individuals in photograph)

Guard members, from charity event participation to individual accomplishments to military operations. While we appreciate that many companies and individuals have special offers for military members we cannot feature any one individual company. The Grizzly does not run advertisements.

Email story submissions by the 15th of every month to:

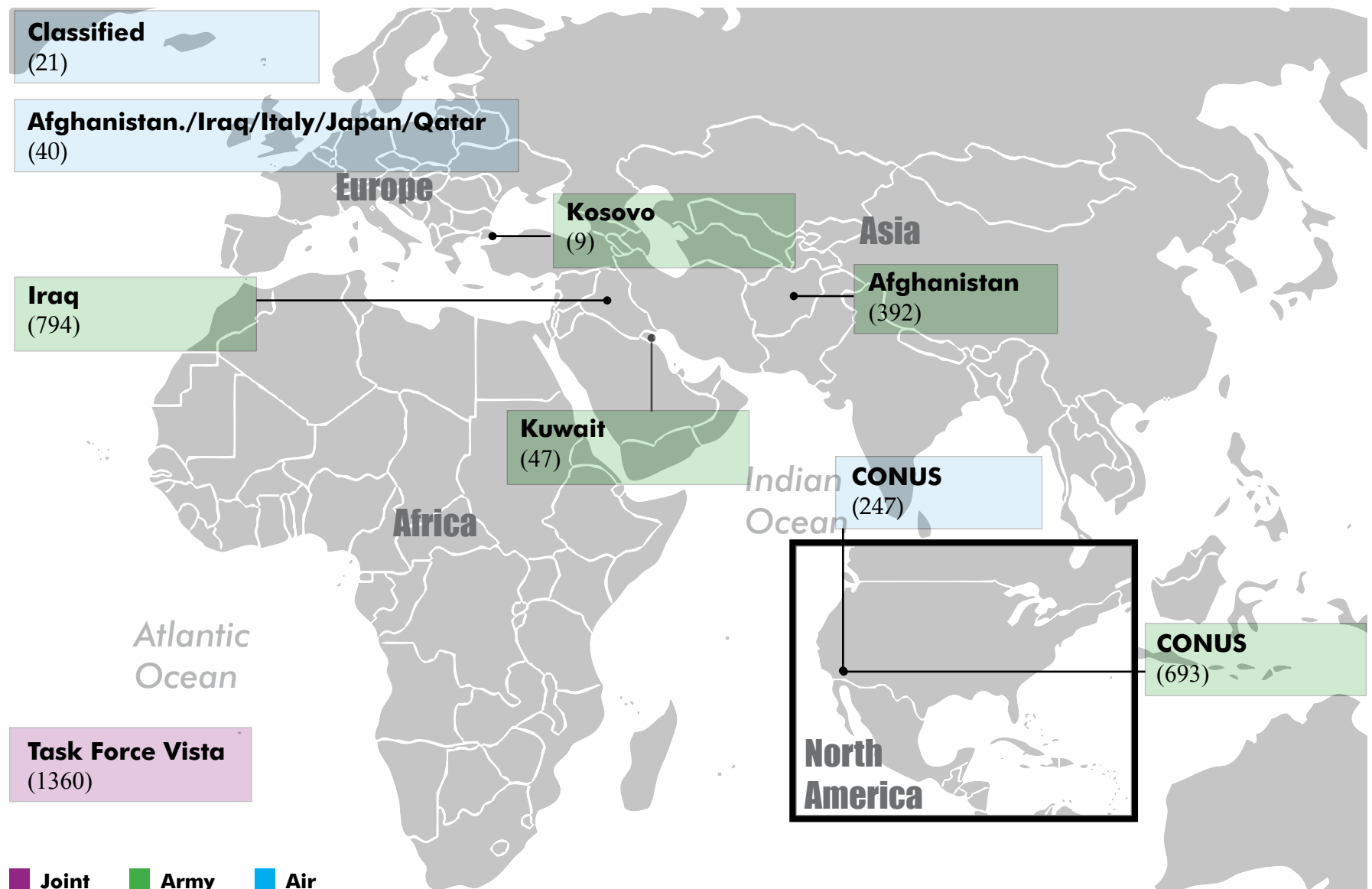
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Cover photo: Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge

Where We Are

The California National Guard as of Apr. 2007



Fresno Member Becomes First F-16 Pilot to Fire New Missile

By 2nd Lt. Theresa M. Chrystal

A member of the 194th Fighter Squadron, a component of the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, became the first F-16 Combat Air Force pilot to successfully fire a live AIM-9X missile during a Weapons System Evaluation Program at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in February.

Capt. Scott McClelland was the pioneer pilot to fire the new missile which has a significantly expanded capability over the AIM-9M. "The AIM-9X is a superior weapon that will enhance the capabilities of air power," said McClelland.

proximately 80 support personnel to be evaluated on its total air-to-air weapons systems employment and maintenance procedures.

According to Maj. Scott Seyfarth, the deployment project officer and a pilot with the 194FS, the WSEP is designed to test not only the ability of the aircraft to perform as specified, but also to ensure the pilots and maintainers are following proper procedures. The evaluation is an "end-to-end" inspection which includes aircraft performance, weapon delivery system, weapons, aircrew, support



Staff Sgts. Nathaniel Leben, Timothy Peterson and Tech Sgt. Kulbir Mand, all weapons loaders from the 144th Fighter Wing, finish loading an AIM-9X missile on the wing of an F-16.



An F-16 from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., goes through the "bird bath" after returning from its morning mission during Combat Archer, a weapon systems academics exercise, at Tyndall AFB, Fla., on Feb. 5, 2007.

The AIM-9X was successfully fired against a QF-4 drone during an evaluation mission according to Capt. Gregory Wintill, a program manager at Tyndall. "The ability of the F-16 to employ the new AIM-9X missile is a huge milestone and provides a great capability for the Viper in defense of our country."

More than 90 members from the 144FW deployed Feb. 2-11 to Tyndall AFB to participate in Combat Archer, an evaluation mission at WSEP. The 144th deployed with four aircraft, eleven pilots and ap-

equipment, technical data and maintenance actions.

The objective was for the F-16 pilots to accurately intercept and shoot remote controlled drones, which were launched to simulate enemy aircraft. The 194FS was scheduled to fire several weapon systems including the AIM-9L/M, AIM-9X and AIM-120 missiles, as well as the M197 Vulcan 20 millimeter gun. Although the pilots were scheduled to test five missiles, only three were shot due to the drones' failure to launch.

In addition to the live weapons training, the deployment provided an excellent opportunity for the Fresno pilots to test their jets in simulated air combat against dissimilar aircraft such as the F-15 and the F-18. These missions involved Fresno's F-16s flying head to head against F-15s from the 67th Fighter Squadron from Kadena Air Base, Japan, and CF-18 Hornets from the Canadian's 425 Alouette Tactical Fighter Squadron.

The deployment required four aircraft to fly two missions per day. With only four aircraft, maintainers were required to perform a quick turnaround of the same four jets for the second mission each day. The active duty Airmen at Tyndall were highly impressed with the 144th maintenance crew's ability to perform the "4-turn-4" missions with only 20 crew chiefs and four weapon load teams, according to Master Sgt. Manuel Hernandez Sr., the first sergeant who deployed with the unit. "The maintainers worked some long, hard days, and we were only able to meet the mission requirements due to their dedication and our great management," said Her-

nandez. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hanes was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the deployment and was integral in coordinating mission efforts. "Chief Hanes did an excellent job of ensuring crews received the proper rest time and all personnel were able to do their jobs in order to provide the jets an hour and half before they were scheduled for the WSEP missions," said Hernandez.

With limited personnel and resources available due to funding constraints, maintenance personnel performed remarkably well according to Seyfarth. "The maintainers did an awesome job to allow us to perform the way we did. We were scheduled to fly 40 sorties and actually flew 39. It was a busy week and a half, but all went well," said Seyfarth.

According to Tyndall's Web site, the base hosts 38 air-to-air WSEP deployments each year. "Squadron personnel verify weapon system performance, determine reliability, evaluate capability and limitations, identify deficiencies, recommend corrective action, and maintain combat Air Force-wide data."



Staff Sgt. Timothy Peterson, a weapons loader from the 144th Fighter Wing, connects the transfer unit of the Universal Armament Load System to upload 500 .50 caliber rounds to an F-16.

ALL PHOTOS: SMSGT. CHRIS DRUDGE

Soldiers Run in Honor of Californians Killed Overseas

Story and photos by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza

About eight hours after it began, the California National Guard put an end to the 2007 Los Angeles Marathon.

Soldiers from various units of the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Los Alamitos, along with individuals from other National Guard entities, took part in the 22nd running of California's prestigious race March 4.

Sgt. Maj. Javier Becerra, Human Resources chief, 40th ID, led a mixed detachment that was warmly recognized at the start of the 26.2-mile race, and at the end. Their presence was important. The Soldiers donned T-shirts listing the names of fellow Guardsmen who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"First and foremost was a group of Soldiers who wanted to show their gratitude for our fallen comrades. We could have done this in ten-

of those who died."

Becerra and 1st Sgt. Bobby B. Chavez, operations sergeant, 40th Special Troops Battalion, paced the unit through the course. They walked a few, ran a few. They re-grouped toward the end. In formation, about a dozen marched to the finish line, receiving applause from thousands of spectators.

"We wanted to get a group of Soldiers together and make it through the course in honor of our fallen comrades," 1st Sgt. Chavez explained.

"We educated the public. They saw a different side of Soldiers, gave them something to cheer about," added Sgt. Maj. Becerra. "Just the way we came in at the end. Even though we took a long time and the crowd was probably less than

an accomplishment to finish a marathon," she said.

Maj. Pete Shaner, Joint Task Force VISTA executive officer, broke the four-hour barrier. He ended respectfully in 3:48:58. Shaner was the 1,064 runner to cross the finish line.

"I just wanted to do it without stopping, Shaner said. "It was amazing to see the entire city of Los Angeles turn out. The entire route was lined with people. It's like a 26-mile long block party." Shaner set a personal goal. He has never run a faster marathon, he said.

Tech Sgt. Joseph Prouse of the 163rd March Air Reserve Base clocked in at 5:13:27. Lt. John Gunty,

also of the 163rd, ran a 4:34:38 finish. He was 4,060 overall.

Nairobi Fred Mogaka was the overall winner in 2:17:44. The victory earned him \$100,000 and a 2007 Honda Accord. Ramilia Burangu-lova women's title in 2:37:54.



Master Sgt. Shawn Carter, Staff Sgt. Veronica Villescas and Staff Sgt. Jesus Herrera of the 40th Infantry Division jog the final meters of the 22nd Los Angeles Marathon.

nis shoes and running equipment, but it would not have carried any meaning," said Sgt. Maj. Becerra. "The uniform and shirts had a meaning. We were asked many times why the uniform, boots and black shirts. We wanted people to ask us. We stopped so many times for pictures with strangers, people who lost a loved one or just a friend who was serving their country overseas."

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa commended the Guardsmen's attendance, saying they add a security element to the thousands in place and stationed in key city points.

"The fact that they're here to honor their own tells a great story about our National Guard," Villaraigosa said. "They take care of each other. That's very special. It's an honor to have the National Guard here, and admirable that they're running the Los Angeles Marathon in memory

half of what it could have been if we came in earlier, it was great to hear the cheers and see people standing to applaud."

Three members of Joint Task Force VISTA, California's southwest border mission for OPERATION JUMP START, ran individually and completed the challenge. Sgt. Martin Figueroa of Task Force Phoenix made his marathon debut, finishing in four hours, 58 minutes and 53 seconds. He placed 6,368 overall among the 25,000 who registered. "As a child growing up in Los Angeles, I thought it was a good idea to do it," said Sgt. Figueroa. "All I wanted was to finish and be standing at the end."

Figueroa credits Lt. Evelyn Macias-Smerker, also with Task Force Phoenix, for convincing and motivating him to run. This was Macias-Smerker's fifth marathon. She ended in 5:05:22.

"I just like to run. And it's always



1st Sgt. Bobby B. Chavez, operations sergeant, 40th Special Troops Battalion, dons a T-shirt with the names of 23 California National Guardsmen who died serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of the 40th ID helped commence the Los Angeles Marathon. A four-man color guard stood proud as a ceremonial opening was held. And as the flock of runners, walkers, joggers and wheelchair racers took off, Soldiers provided a human barrier to protect the race's timing equipment. They cheered those passing by, giving runners high-fives and back pats.

Immediately after the thousands had cleared the starting line, Sgt. Maj. Becerra formed up his detachment. Together they embarked on a 26.2-mile tribute to the California Guard's bravest. Those who finished gutted through the heat, dehydration and blisters. But it didn't matter. They knew that the fallen Soldiers, especially their families and loved ones, have battled through worse discomforts.

"It's all in honor of the 23 Californians killed on the Global war on Terrorism," said the 40th ID's Capt. Lorraine Lissitz.

"I have ran 15 Los Angeles Marathons and this one topped them all," Sgt. Maj. Becerra added. "It will never be matched."



Wheelchair racers take off at the start of the 2007 Los Angeles Marathon as a California National Guard color guard team representing the 40th Infantry Division stands tall.

Traumatic Brain Injury

By Maj. Steve Fetrow

In February, I spent a few days in Dallas meeting with my counterparts in the state of Texas. There are only a handful of states currently employing full-time mental health officers and this was my first meeting with people who are doing the same thing I am in the National Guard. I must admit, I looked forward to these meetings from the moment they were on my schedule. I had a wonderful time sharing ideas and experiences and found myself sending multiple emails and making phone calls just days after the gathering. Why? Because we share a common interest and passion, we have similar backgrounds and experiences, and we are performing some of the same essential duties. We are a part of a community!

The word community conjures up many thoughts and ideas. Some think of a neighborhood, a grassroots organization, a religious organization, or even a political term. The word itself comes from Latin roots meaning, "common, public, and shared by all or many."

A psychological perspective would focus on a person obtaining the ability to develop and maintain significant relationships. Each of us develops a sense of community or a place of belonging. We connect and share within this community. We care for each other within this community. We learn to maintain our individuality and yet belong to a community. This process is critical for psychological maturity and emotional health. In many situations, individuals who learn to develop and maintain significant relationships are more able to deal with the stress and strain of everyday life. They find greater sense of personal contentment, a more mature emotional health, and a stronger sense of personal awareness and fulfillment. Quite frankly, learning to develop intimacy and function within a community is a significant developmental task that everyone must face.

In order for any individual to become a part of a community, two elements must be present. First off, there must be a sense of member-

ship or belonging. Membership could be inherent as in the case of a biological family or it could be by choice as in the case of a gathering of mental health workers in Texas or a gathering of like-minded individuals sharing the same religious faith. In any of these situations, the key is that the individual feels as if they are a part of the team. Being a part of any team requires personal commitment and effort. And in many cases, the more we invest is directly proportional to the reward we receive.

The second element is found in the word "connection". Belonging to a group is not enough; there is a requirement for the people within the group to connect in a meaningful manner in order to be considered a community. This takes place as members learn to share openly and honestly with each other. Members learn to share and address each other's needs. And most significantly, members learn to be vulnerable and share emotional connection.



ESGR Award

By Capt. Michael Morgan

ELK GROVE, CA – On February 28, 2007 the Elk Grove Police Department was recognized as a patriotic employer by the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The Patriot Award recognizes employers who contribute to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force.

"We understand the dedication and commitment that is involved when our National Guard and Reserve employees are called to duty," said Robert Simmons, Elk Grove Police Chief. "As an organization, we are

more than happy to help our National Guard and Reserve employees who are called upon to protect our freedom and security. We are proud to help them in any way we can."



From left: Capt. Michael Morgan, 1st Lt. Yusef Parker, Brig. Gen. Louis Antonetti, Chief Robert Simmons and Chief Ed Kelly.

Soldier of the Year



Staff Sergeant Jorge A. Garcia is a native of Tijuana, Mexico and graduated from University High School in Los Angeles, California in 1989.

Staff Sergeant Garcia entered the United States Army on September 4, 1990 and attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Staff Sgt. Garcia has held such positions as a Fire Team Member for OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, Radio Telephone Operator/Training Room Non Commissioned Officer (NCO), and Infantry Fire Team Leader and currently works at Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 40th Infantry Division as the Senior Human Resources Sergeant.

Staff Sergeant Garcia's accomplishments include being a distinguished honor graduate from the Basic Non Commissioned Officer Course (NCO), Phase II, being nominated the NCO of the year for the 40th Infantry Division and just recently becoming the NCO of the year for the California Army National Guard. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, with one bronze oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal with two bronze knots, the National Defense Service Medal with the bronze star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal with the bronze star and many more.

Specialist Richard X. Olmedo is originally from Los Angeles and graduated from Silverado High School in Victorville, California in June of 2002.

Specialist Olmedo enlisted in the United States Army in July of 2002 and attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After completion of Basic Training he attended his Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas for Healthcare Specialist, 91W. In 2003, Specialist Olmedo's received orders for his first duty assignment which was at Camp Casey, Republic of Korea with the 1/72 Armor unit. In 2004, he got reassigned to the 1/39th Field Artillery at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he did the rest of his Active Duty time before becoming a member of the California National Guard in July of 2006. Specialist Olmedo is currently assigned to Company E, 540th Maintenance Support Bat-

talion located in Pomona, California as a Combat Medic.

Specialist Olmedo's accomplishments include completing the Medical Technician Course, the Medical Proficiency Training Course and graduating from the Primary Leadership development Course. He also was nominated as the Soldier of the Year for the 224th Sustainment Brigade and was recently voted the soldier of the Year for the California Army National Guard. Specialist Olmedo has attended Central Texas College and is currently enrolled at Victor Valley College, majoring in Architecture. Some of his decorations include the Expert Field Medical Badge, Army Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.



Story by Chief Warrant Officer Marc Yablonka / Photo by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza



From left: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartelle, Spec. Richard X. Olmedo, Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Garcia and Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark

LONG BEACH, CALIF.--Sixty-two years after the end of World War II, perhaps the grandest lady to ever sail the seas, the Queen Mary, once again served as a troop ship. This time, however, she stayed at anchor in Long Beach Harbor as several hundred California Army and Air National Guardsmen gathered in her Grand Ballroom for the 7th Annual NCO and Soldier of the Year Banquet on February 24, 2007.

The Soldier of the Year Minuteman trophies went to Spec. Richard X.

Olmedo, Co. E, 540th MSB, and Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Garcia, HHC, 40th Infantry Div. (Mech.), NCO of the Year.

Command Sgt. Major Michael Bartelle, Allied Command Operations Senior Noncommissioned Officer, flew in from Europe and his post at NATO, to be the key note speaker. Being a good Soldier or Airman, the Command Sergeant Major told those in attendance, is "more than equipment, tactics, technology and procedures. It is a state of mind, attitude adopted by those willing

to make changes necessary for the 21st century."

In a direct reference to Spec. Olmedo and Staff Sgt. Garcia, Command Sgt. Maj. Bartelle added, "They are us. We are the reflection of goodness...dedication within us, and love for our country."

The lessons learned and excelled at by the Specialist and the Staff Sergeant, which garnered them their trophies, covered five categories: Physical Training, Soldier Skills, Common Task Skills, Marksmanship and Land Navigation. The competition occurred over a three day period at Camp San Luis Obispo in early December.

Though very humble about being named the recipients, both Soldier of the Year Olmedo, who also served in Korea with the 172nd Armored Battalion 2003-2004, and NCO of the Year Garcia, who returned from deployment with the 40th ID (Mech.) in Kosovo in early 2006, had very strong feelings about what they had come away with after the competition was all over.

"I just wanted to do my part for the U.S. Army. I never thought [winning] would be for me. It's a privilege to represent the California National Guard."

Both the Spec. Olmedo and the Staff Sgt. Garcia emphasized that while it was a competition all of those involved banded together to help one another. "Though it was competitive, we came together and took care of each other," the Staff Sgt. added.

The other honorees for Soldier of the Year were Specialists Jared C. Barnes, Co. B, 40th STB (Mech.); Evan K. Kubota, HSC 579th ENGR BN; Evelyn Montes, 118th MAINT CO; and Karen O. Vy, HSC 640th ASB.

NCO honorees were Sergeants Michael Avila, Accession Task Force; Jonathon S. Burnett, HHD 540th SPT BN; Lisa E. Milam, 118th MAINT CO; Noah J. Ronquillo, Accession Task Force; Michael Wilson, 649th MP CO; and Staff Sgt. Nai N. Sosongkham, CO B, 1-184 INF.

Remembering the Fallen

Sergeant Christopher Dwayne Young



Sergeant Christopher Dwayne Young was killed on 2 March 2007, at Camp Arifan, Iraq. He died as a result of injuries incurred when his vehicle struck an IED.

Sergeant Young enlisted in the California Army National Guard on 18 October 2005 in the grade of Private, E-2 at the San Diego Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). He entered Active Duty Training on 8 November 2005 at Fort Lee, Virginia where he completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. During this period, Sergeant Young also completed the Automated Logistical Specialist Course, was awarded Primary Specialty 92A10, and advanced to Private First Class. Sergeant Young completed his required active service on 27 April 2006, and was transferred to Company A (-), 40th Forward Support Battalion, California Army National Guard in Lynwood, California as a Subsistence Supply

Specialist. On 9 August 2006 Sergeant Young transferred to Company C, 3rd Battalion 160th Infantry in San Pedro, California as an Armor-er. He was ordered to report to his home station in San Diego, California on 22 August 2006 for the purpose of OCONUS Deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and on 25 August 2006 he was sent to the Mobilization Station at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Sergeant Young was advanced to Specialist on 17 October 2006 and posthumously promoted to Sergeant on 2 March 2007. Sergeant Young's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, California Commendation Medal and California Federal Service Ribbon.

California Military Family Relief Fund

By Jon Wilson

California Military Family Relief Fund (CMFRF) was enacted through Senate Bill 1162 to provide the California National Guard (CNG) the power to make grants from the fund to families of CNG members who are California residents and were called to active military duty in a Title 10 United States Code (USC) status. The eligibility requirements are listed below:

- ★ Current member of the CNG in good standing
- ★ Current California resident
- ★ Deployment to active duty for at least 100 consecutive days in

Title 10 USC status

- ★ Member's military salary has decreased by 30 percent or more from civilian salary

The original bill was written based on Rand studies and other venues stating National Guard members may take a loss of up to 70 percent of their civilian salary when deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The findings of the CMFRF committee show many members that are actually experiencing an increase in salary. It became apparent the requirements were too ridged and the CMFRF committee could not award the

grants at the rate as originally speculated. To date \$32,500 has been granted to 10 families.

Based on the challenges of the committee to issue grants, Assembly Bill 2085 was approved in August 2006 changing the requirements to reflect the following:

- ★ Deployment to active duty for at least 60 consecutive days in Title 10 USC status.
- ★ Member's salary has decreased by 10 percent, or household income of member's family has decreased by at least 10 percent of amount prior to deployment.

More information is available on the CNG Public website under Soldier and Civilian Resources—<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cmfrf>. In addition, the CNG is mailing out a packet to every CNG member that will include brochures on this and our other financial assistance programs along with veterans benefits information.

For further information please contact Mr. Jon Wilson at (916) 854-3409 or email j1@ca.ngb.army.mil.

A "Must Save" Family Website www.guardfamily.org

By Carolann Wunderlin

The National Guard Online Community developed by the National Guard Bureau Family Programs Office is a definite "must save-use now" for 129th Rescue Wing members and their families.

This on-line community provides in-depth information covering: Family Readiness, Program Services, Plans & Operations, and the National Guard Child & Youth Program along with timely news and announcements of events and training available to Family Program Volunteers. Critical links to family resources such as Military

OneSource, TRICARE, Community Outreach and a local community resource finder which lists the Wing Family Readiness Coordinators and Family Assistance Coordinators and locations throughout the state.

Of timely note, families and members who are preparing for deployment should visit the the subset of the "Six Steps to Family Readiness" entitled Pre-deployment. Here's an excerpt from that:

Pre deployment is the time to make sure that everything is in order in

case of potential deployment. This is also the time to utilize all of the training that you and your Guard Member have received. Now is also the time to ensure that you know and understand all of the responsibilities that will be yours in case of deployment.

Family Care Plan

A family care plan is used to ensure the care and well being of children and dependent adults during mobilizations and deployments. You and your Service Member (SM) need to go over the Family Care Plan to ensure that it is up to date.

For sample Family Care plans click on your Branch of service. [Double click on the link for Air Force and it provides you the Family Care Plan Form for your personal use. Air Force http://www.guardfamily.org/Documents/AF035700_Family_care_Certification.pdf

Time should be taken also to discuss finances and other items that may be of concern in case of mobilization. This proactive step will lessen concerns and can increase confidence. Checklists are a great way to help ensure most events are planned for.

Guardsmen Assists in Rescue of Civilian Left in Desert

Story and photos by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza

A member of Task Force Wiley played a role in the search and rescue of a man missing for close to five days between San Diego and El Centro.

Chief Warrant Officer Brandon Lynch, a pilot in the California National Guard, assisted the Border Patrol's Search, Trauma and Rescue (BOR-

and give assistance on the ground."

The Kiowa is basically a two-passenger aircraft, Maj. Braun explained. The one they flew that day came from Washington and contained a special "night-capable sensor" that can track people in the toughest, darkest elements. It is

Official reports state the individual suffered from a broken leg, blood loss, shock, exposure and dehydration. He remained hospitalized in San Diego county for weeks.

"Anytime you come across someone injured, it doesn't matter who it is. Illegal or not, we want to ensure they get medical attention as soon as possible," added Chief Warrant Officer Lynch.

"That's the nature of the Guard," echoed Maj. Braun. "We do everything we can not just for the military, but especially for the civilian population."

Missions as this are Lynch's forte. He is based out of the 1/168th Air Wing at Mather Field, Sacramento, where normal duties are rescue missions, he said. With Task Force Wiley, Lynch flies UH-60s (Blackhawks) and the Kiowas.

This is not the first time Guardsmen serving on Joint Task Force VISTA have assisted in rescue efforts, according to Maj. Will Gentle, Task Force Wiley commander. A similar rescue was done in September 2006 in the Sand Hills, an area of rolling sand dunes nearly devoid of vegetation that is approximately 15 miles wide and 50 miles long.

"When you help save lives, you feel good about it," said Maj. Gentle. "We're glad we were there to help someone out of the area and into a safe zone. He was hurt bad, but he survived."

BORSTAR teams are some of the busiest rescue units in the world. The Border Patrol website states that as of September 2002, these teams have performed more than 1,000 missions and saved above 2,500 lives along the southwest border. The majority of victims saved have been suffering from heat- or cold-related conditions.

STAR) team evacuate an individual attempting to cross the southwest border near Inkopah Mountain. Lynch was flying an OH-58 "Kiowa" on a reconnaissance mission when he was redirected to aid rescuers.

"Anytime we hear that someone's life is at danger, at that point we make an assessment and we have to change the mission," said Chief Warrant Officer Lynch, a Guardsman since 1999. "Right then we go into search and rescue mode. We try to find the area and get immediate help."

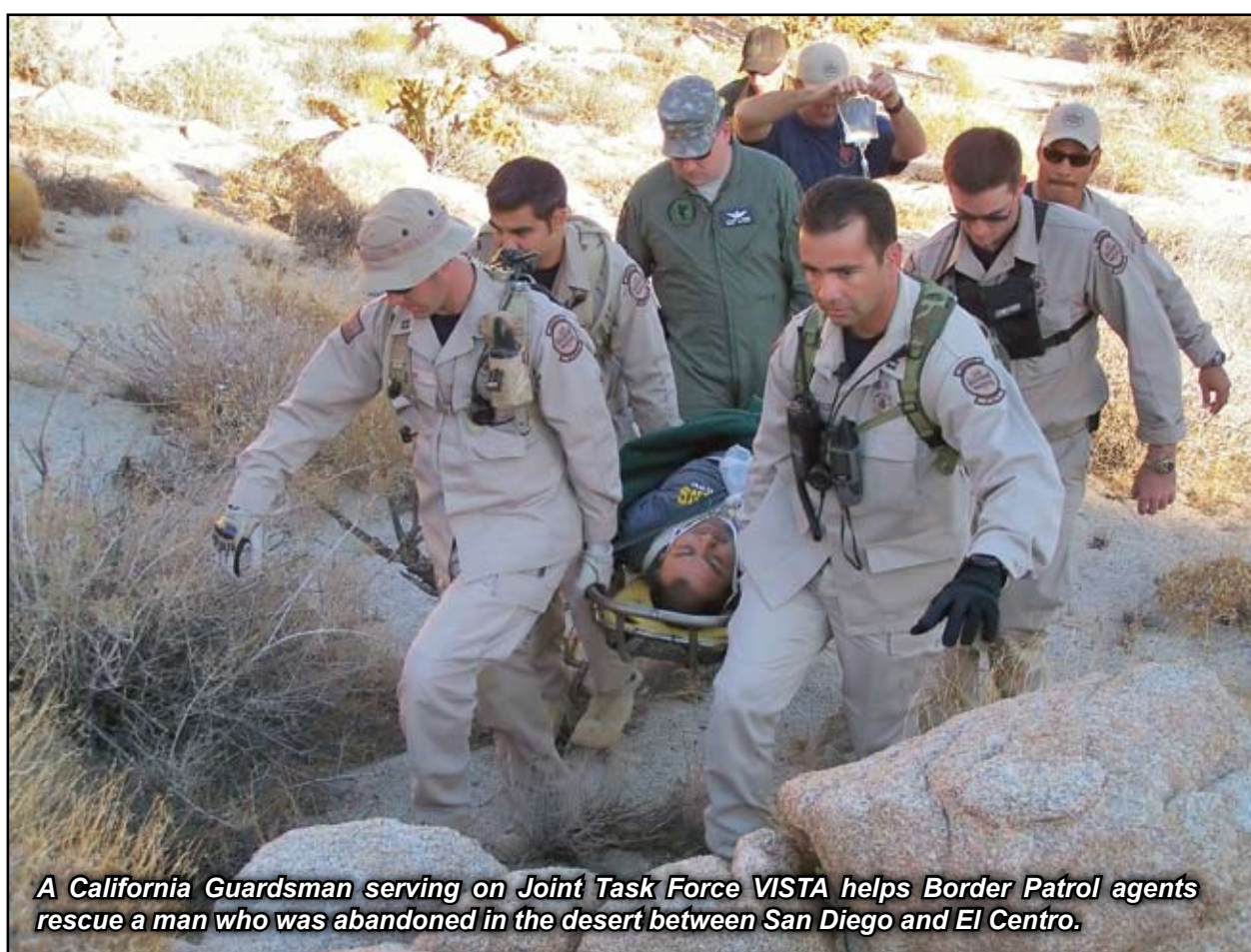
Lynch and Maj. Clayton Braun, a pilot with the Washington National Guard, had just completed an area orientation in El Centro. Minutes after getting airborne to start their daily mission, the pair was radioed to change course. They fixed in on a site where Border Patrol agents waited. Lynch and Braun met the rescuers and one-by-one transported them to a site closest to the injured man. But they, too, had to park their helicopter to give assistance.

Once the civilian was stabilized, the Guardsmen helped carry a litter up a steep, rocky hillside. They found a safe landing zone for a Marine medivac helicopter to transport the injured to a hospital. Chief Warrant Officer Lynch said it took several long minutes to export the man out of the ravine due to the terrain's difficulty.

"At the site, there was a Border Patrol aircraft already there, but it had to break station because it was low on fuel," he said. "We were asked to stick around

not designed to transport personnel, otherwise it would have been used to fly the injured man.

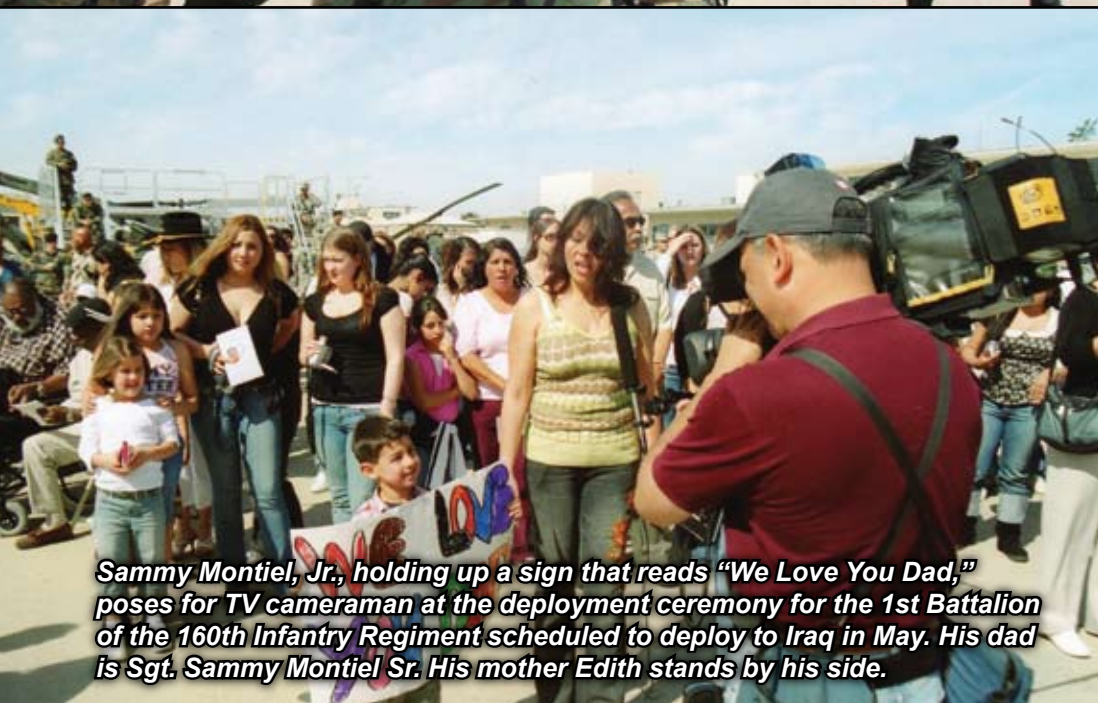
"It just so happens Chief Lynch and I were in the air at the time and were available to respond," said Maj. Braun. "We didn't hesitate. We wanted to help. After we scouted the landing zone, we vectored the rescue helicopter in. The good news is that we helped save the guy's life. A lot of times, by the time rescuers get there, it's too late."



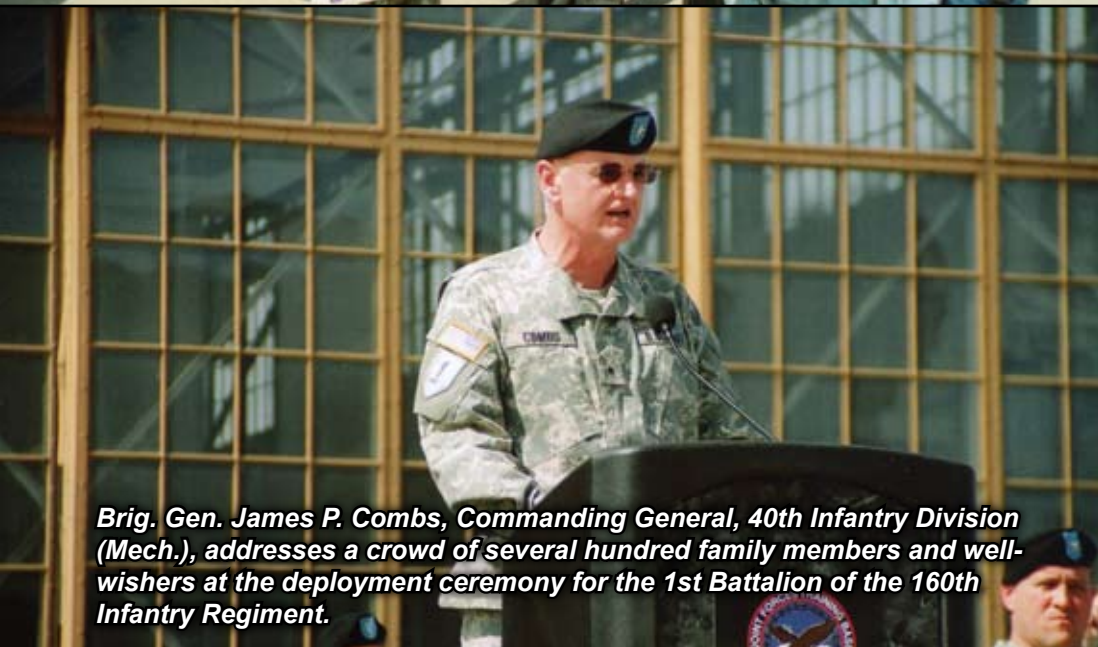
A California Guardsman serving on Joint Task Force VISTA helps Border Patrol agents rescue a man who was abandoned in the desert between San Diego and El Centro.



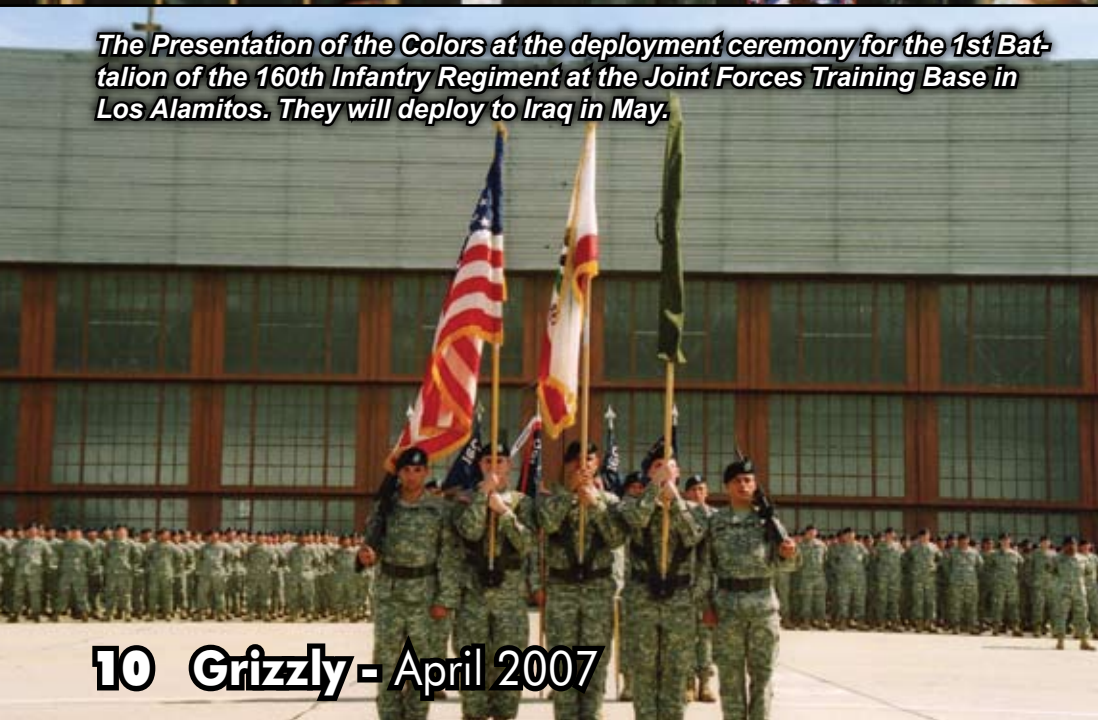
The 40th Infantry Division (Mech.) Marching Band passes in review during the deployment ceremony of the 1st Battalion of the 160th Infantry Regiment at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos March 4th. The 1-160 "Sidewinders" deploy to Iraq in May.



Sammy Montiel, Jr., holding up a sign that reads "We Love You Dad," poses for TV cameraman at the deployment ceremony for the 1st Battalion of the 160th Infantry Regiment scheduled to deploy to Iraq in May. His dad is Sgt. Sammy Montiel Sr. His mother Edith stands by his side.



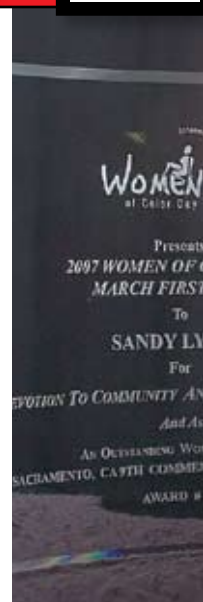
Brig. Gen. James P. Combs, Commanding General, 40th Infantry Division (Mech.), addresses a crowd of several hundred family members and well-wishers at the deployment ceremony for the 1st Battalion of the 160th Infantry Regiment.



The Presentation of the Colors at the deployment ceremony for the 1st Battalion of the 160th Infantry Regiment at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. They will deploy to Iraq in May.



Chief Warrant Officer Arthur Schaeffer, Target Analyst for HQ 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, processes calls for fire during a command post exercise March 3rd, 2007. The 40th Infantry Brigade recently transformed to the Army's new modular structure and conducted its first field exercise this weekend



Col. Nate Reddicks assumed command of Joint Task Force Vista from Col. Kevin Ellsworth. Pictured, Col. Nate Reddicks & Brig. Gen. Louis Antonetti conducting the TFFV Change of Command ceremony.

Sgt. 1st Class Freeman, Maj. Martinelli and Lt. Col. O'Connor at the weapons range at Camp Victory, Iraq.





Chief Warrant Officer Sandy Lynch was honored in an award ceremony in which outstanding women of color were recognized.

Nine Thousand Pounds Clean!

For three days last month members of the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force supported the National Parks Service with site restorations. The National Parks service in conjunction with the Marin County Sheriff's Office and the Marin Municipal Water District coordinated the support of the CNG for the operation. Over 9,000 lbs of debris were recovered from the pristine wilderness of Point Reyes National Seashore. It took a total of twenty one sling loads to clean such items as car batteries, gardening equipment and environmental hazardous material, from four separate sites. (no picture)



Sgt. Joseph M. Moseley is awarded the Purple Heart for injuries incurred while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

223rd Officer Candidate School conducting Combat Water Survival Training.



Contributors:

- Spec. Allen White
- Chief Warrant Officer Marc Yoblanca
- Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Barker
- 2nd Lt. Nfor Barthson
- Lt. Col. Robert Spano
- Sgt. Rebecca Valdiviezo

Combat Logistics Patrol Methodology

By Maj. Julian H. Bond,
Published in Army Logistician March/April Issue

Logisticians on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan must operate using unprecedented and uncharted tactics, techniques, and procedures. They can no longer rely on nonorganic force protection or other emergency response assets when they operate "outside the wire" on austere main supply routes (MSRs). Logistics units, specifically transportation units, must be able to master actions on the objective, force projection, and critical emergency response skills. Effective combat logistics patrols (CLPs) are not just a concept; they have become a way of life for combat service support units. CLP methodology provides the standard for fixing, fueling, arming, moving, and sustaining the force. The multifunctional warrior has evolved into one of the premier warriors on the nonlinear and non-conventional battlefield.

The 756th Transportation Company (Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants), while stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, successfully delivered millions of gallons of class IIIB (bulk petroleum) and transported fuel over 200,000 miles throughout the Multinational Division-Baghdad sector. This was possible because of the skills the 756th developed in theater that allowed the unit to transform organically to react to opposing forces.

Specific additional equipment was needed to augment the unit's fleet of M1088 tractor trucks and M967 and M969 5,000-gallon fuel tankers.

This additional equipment included gun trucks, fire-suppression systems, maintenance recovery vehicles and wreckers, and Counter Remote Control Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Electronic Warfare (CREW) systems. To augment the newly acquired equipment, motor transport operators (military occupational specialty 88M) became proficient in operating Single-Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) radios, Warlocks (IED-jamming devices), Movement Tracking Systems (MTSs), Blue Force Trackers (BFTs), and a number of weapon systems (M2 machinegun, M240B machinegun, M16 rifle, and M4 carbine). The vehicle operators also became proficient in vehicle-recovery operations, combat life-saver functions, and commodity operations.

Gun Trucks

The 756th reconfigured M1088 tractor trucks into gun truck platforms, complete with a gunner's protection kit. A dual-mounted gun shield offered protection to the vehicle's front by allowing the mounting of two automatic weapon systems. All gun trucks were equipped with CREW systems and AN/VRC-92 dual long-range SINCGARS. Gun truck personnel were trained and drilled on escalation-of-force tactics, rules of engagement, and mitigating unnecessary collateral damage. Sirens, loud speakers, Iraqi warning signs, and 1-million-watt spotlights were used to warn incoming traffic of the danger of approaching a CLP.



Communication

The 756th gradually increased the proportion of CLP vehicles able to communicate with each other from 15 percent to 100 percent. Because of the nonlinear opposing-force tactics, every asset within the CLP had to be able to communicate to maintain situational awareness. To achieve this, the company obtained an AN/VRC-90 single long-range SINCGARS for each of its transport vehicles.

Navigation

The company had two types of navigational systems: MTS and Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below-BFT (FBCB2-BFT). The company tactical operations center (TOC) had a matching base system. Vehicle operators became

proficient on both systems through extensive training and daily operations.

As the primary navigational system used, MTS was useful as both a communications and a navigational tool. Using MTS to provide critical messaging, including group notifications, route updates, and communication with battlespace owners, provided the CLP an invaluable tool.

Weapon Systems

The motor transport operators chosen to become gunners had to be qualified on multiple weapon systems, including their individual weapon (M4 carbine or M16 rifle), the M249 squad automatic weapon, the M240B 7.62-milli-



meter machinegun, and the M2 .50-caliber machinegun. Weapon system skills were sustained by monthly training at firing ranges and realistic “live fire” lanes. The ability of turret gunners to perform escalation-of-force drills successfully—gradually moving from the lowest caliber weapon to the most lethal systems—became the difference between life and death on the MSRs.

Fire-Suppression System

CLPs encounter various fire risks, such as IEDs and possible vehicular accidents, on an MSR. The fire-suppression system can provide 500 gallons of mobile fire-suppression foam, which pushes back flames from the cab so personnel can extract casualties and equipment. A platform was developed for mounting the fire-suppression system directly on an M1088 tractor truck. The crew of that M1088 received extensive fire-suppression operation and first-responder medical training.

Recovery and Wrecker Operations

Preparing for an unexpected breakdown is critical to the success of a CLP because being stationary on an MSR increases the risk of opposing-force engagement and ties up critical supply routes. Maintenance and recovery personnel had 15 minutes to fix a mechanical failure or tow the system. All of the 756th's CLPs were equipped with

a wrecker vehicle, preferably the M984 heavy, expanded-mobility tactical truck (HEMTT) wrecker, and an additional M1088 tractor truck for trailer recovery.

CREW Systems

The danger of remote-controlled IEDs was mitigated by using CREW systems that jammed IED receivers to prevent trigger signals from reaching their targets. CREW systems were constantly being developed and upgraded to meet the latest threats.

Combat Lifesavers

Qualified first responders are essential to Soldier survival. Advances in medical transportation and trauma care can save lives only if wounded Soldiers are stabilized within the first 5 to 10 minutes of injury. Every Soldier in the company received combat lifesaver training. Every CLP vehicle was required to have one combat lifesaver-qualified Soldier with a combat lifesaver bag. Gun truck personnel received enhanced first-responder training developed by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). This training focused on critical trauma skills and the most common injuries in theater.

The 3 Cs

The commander of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 3d Corps Support Command, Colonel Gustave Perna, developed the 3 Cs concept: confidence in yourself, confidence



in your equipment, and confidence in your leaders. While attached to the 4th Sustainment Brigade for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 756th always used this concept as the foundation of its operations. The 3 Cs were the focal point of the company's constant evolution of equipment, leaders, and, most important, Soldiers.

This article offers only a brief picture of the true abilities that the 756th Transportation Company developed with the assistance of the 189th Corps Support Battalion (Airborne) and the 4th Sustainment Brigade. The 756th committed itself to meticulous attention to detail and constant improvement,

thereby creating a CLP methodology. The 189th Corps Support Battalion commander used any means necessary to resource the 756th's dynamic formation and developed very efficient CLP standing operating procedures. Today's logistics Soldier has evolved into a first-rate warfighter.

Major Julian H. Bond is an Active Guard/Reserve officer assigned to the 746th Combat Service Support Battalion, California Army National Guard. He is the Commander of the 756th Transportation Company (Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants) (-) at Lancaster, California, which was deployed to Iraq when he wrote this article.



California Cover Girl

Story and photos by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza

Specialist Melanie Felix has been chosen to participate in a non typical military mission. For this particular mission, the Joint Task Force VISTA Soldier traveled across several states to meet a slew of top candidates chosen, like her, for a special National Guard project.

The 22-year-old Felix has become the California Guard's cover girl through a special advertisement campaign that is part of a multi-million dollar National Guard Bureau project designed to boost recruitment. NGB, state recruiters, along with marketing and advertising managers, worked through a lengthy process to find a suitable Soldier who best represents the California National California in print and video advertisements.

"When they picked me, I thought that was kind of cool," said the high-spirited Felix. "You just never know if you don't try."

In 2005, Spec. Felix teamed with other state representatives to participate in the time-consuming role of staging, shooting and editing. What followed was an arduous three-month ordeal of video production. A final product was released late last year and while Spec. Felix is most visible in movie commercials, her picture appears in various recruiting posters and print ads as well.

How is Spec. Felix taking in all the publicity? Proudly.

"I learned that a lot of hard work

goes into producing a video or commercial. It was really an honor to be involved, to be a part of something that's going to help the California Guard," she said. "I'm happy to have done it. I encourage others to be a part of that. It was an incredible experience."

Spec. Felix's military specialty is vehicle mechanic and she is one of seven National Guard mechanics working at the Imperial Beach Border Patrol Station for Operation Jump Start. Spec. Felix tunes up engines, repairs damaged tires, operates equipment and more.

"I always like building things with my hands and then taking them apart," added Spec. Felix. "This is what I wanted to do when I joined the Guard. You can apply these skills to your civilian vehicles."

"It was amazing to experience all that," she said. "I just wanted to tell everybody how much I like being in the Guard. I can only tell you from my experience how much I like it, how much being in the Guard has built my character."

"She does a good job. She works hard and she's safe at what she does," said Sgt. Lon Lo, noncommissioned officer in charge. "She works well with everybody."

The new recruiting plan originates from NGB's Army Strength Maintenance Division who gives guidance to individual state recruiting and retention commanders. The National Guard's advertising budget almost doubled last year, to \$76

million, according to Lt. Col. Mike Jones.

"We have dramatically changed the look and feel of the National Guard," he said.

In 2005 an opportunity arose for Guard Public Affairs specialists to work with American Rogue Films, a California production company. Videographers were to create footage for a National Guard commercial to be seen in movie theaters by 2006.



"We want this film to feel real," American Rogue founder and director Klaus Obermeyer told the San Diego Business Journal (SDBJ). "It's a combination between raw documentary and commercial slickness."

Andy Blenkle, account supervisor with LM&O Advertising, which

handles the National Guard account and hired American Rogue, said efforts will key on displaying "the quality of the people in the guard."

Military advertisements and Hollywood production companies have united previously. In the past three years, the National Guard has run ads by LucasFilms and DreamWorks SKG. States the SDBJ: Advertising powerhouse Leo Burnett Worldwide has been handling the Army's advertising for the past five

years and has worked with L.A. production companies, including Oscar-nominated director Ridley Scott's RSA firm. Scott directed blockbusters such as Gladiator and Black Hawk Down

Last year, Hollywood drew more than 1.44 billion admissions, thus confirming the need to advertise in movies. (Source: www.movieadvertising.com)

This advertising strategy has contributed to a successful recruiting effort recently. The Defense Department, courtesy of Army News Service, reports that the active Army achieved 111 percent of its January 2007 goal while the National Guard upped its goal by more than 100 percent. In December 2006, the active Army recruited 861 Soldiers, exceeding its goal by 23 percent. The Army Guard also exceeded its December goal, according to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

"I'm pleased to report that all branches of the United States military exceeded their recruiting goals for the month of December, with particularly strong showings by the Army" Gates said.

Spec. Melanie Felix, a vehicle mechanic with the Joint Task Force VISTA, represents the California National Guard in a series of movie and television commercials as well as print advertisements and posters. She currently serves with Task Force San Diego at the Imperial Beach Border Patrol station.



Moviegoing is the #1 leisure activity among adults. The average person saw 4.7 movies in 2005. 1.40 billion movie tickets were sold in 2005. The box office grossed \$8.99 billion in 2005. (Source: www.screenvision.com)

Identity Theft

By Maj. Mirtha Villarreal

Identity theft can happen to anyone at anytime. Military personnel are especially vulnerable as most, if not all of our documents contain social security numbers and home address. It is very important to ensure that paperwork, such as military orders, containing personal information be destroyed and not just thrown in a wastebasket. As we pass information via email, remember that information can be compromised. Storing personal information on computers, external hard drives and 'thumb drives' can be dangerous, if the storing device is stolen. Protect yourself, you; Soldiers, Airmen and families by insuring you safeguard against identity theft.

The following are some steps to protect you against identity theft.

- ★ Check your credit reports at least once a year. A good rule of thumb is to request a report from one of the three credit reporting agencies every four months to check for reports or activity that raise a "red flag."
- ★ Buy a home shredder and shred all paperwork containing personal information before throwing it away.
- ★ Keep track of your mailbox. Watch for bills for things you didn't buy or order and credit cards you didn't apply for. Likewise, take notice if you don't receive a bill you were expecting.
- ★ Drop off bill payments at the post office or in a blue Postal Service mailbox. Leaving it in a mailbox at your home makes it easy for would-be identity thieves to steal.
- ★ Go through your wallet and remove every piece of identification you don't absolutely need to carry, particularly if it has personal information on it.
- ★ Ask to have your driver's license number changed if it includes your Social Security number.
- ★ Notify your security office immediately if you become a victim of identity theft and provide copies of all related documents. This is particularly important if you have a security clearance.

'Active Duty' Alerts Help Protect Military Personnel from Identity Theft

The last thing you want to worry about while you're on deployment is someone assuming your identity to commit financial fraud. Now, you don't have to. Amendments to the Fair Credit Reporting Act allow you to place an "active duty alert" in your credit report. According to the Federal Trade Commission, one of the agencies that enforces the FCRA, the alert requires credi-

tors to verify your identity before granting credit in your name.

Your credit report contains information on where you live, how you pay your bills, and whether you've been sued, arrested, or filed for bankruptcy. Nationwide consumer reporting companies sell the information in your report to creditors, insurers, employers, and other businesses that use it to evaluate applications for credit, and a host of other activities, including insurance, employment, or renting a home.

Your credit report can be a tool to help you guard against - or discover - identity theft, which occurs when someone uses your personal information - like your name, your Social Security number, or your credit card number - to commit fraud. Identity thieves may use your information to open a new credit card account in your name. Then, when they don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on your credit report. Inaccurate or fraudulent information could affect your ability to get credit, insurance, or housing, now or in the future. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years cleaning up the mess the thieves have made of their names and credit records.

If you are a member of the military and away from your usual duty station, you may place an "active duty alert" on your credit report to help minimize the risk of identity theft while you are deployed. When a business sees the alert on your credit report, it must verify your identity before issuing you credit. The business may try to contact you directly, but if you're on deployment, that may be impossible. As a result, the law allows you to use a personal representative to place or remove an alert. Active duty alerts on your report are effective for one year, unless you request that the alert be removed sooner. If your deployment lasts longer, you may place another alert on your report.

To place an "active duty" alert, or to have it removed, call the toll-free fraud number of one of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, or Trans Union. The company will require you to provide appropriate proof of your identity, which may include your Social Security number, your name, address, and other personal information.

- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
www.equifax.com
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com
- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com

Immediate steps:

If you become a victim of identity theft the following steps should be immediately taken:

(1) file a police report; (2) contact your credit card company(s) and financial institution(s) and notify them of the theft; (3) place a fraud alert on your credit report; (4) notify all government agencies (drivers license, passport, military, etc.) that have issued you a license or other identification document; (5) file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission; and (6) close all accounts that have been tampered with or fraudulently opened. A fraud alert should only be utilized if you suspect you have been or are about to be a victim of identity theft.

Protection of your credit report:

An initial fraud alert (90-day duration) should be utilized if you suspect you are the victim of a scam, may be an identity theft victim, or a stolen wallet. An extended alert (7-year duration) should be utilized if you are a confirmed identity theft victim and require an identity theft report to be provided to the police or consumer reporting company. Both types of alerts will require a business, before issuing to you any future credit, to verify your identity.

All communications with the credit reporting agency should include: a copy of an identity theft report; written explanation of the fraud; and proof of your identity (name, SSN, address, etc.). The consumer reporting company will then have four business days to block the fraudulent information, after accepting your identity theft report.

Free annual credit report:

The Fair & Accurate Credit Transactions Act, passed in 2003, requires each nationwide consumer reporting company to provide you, upon request, with a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months. Requesting the free annual report will provide you with an annual method to ensure the accuracy of your personal information. Eligibility for the free reports was phased-in between December 1, 2004 (western states) and June 1, 2005 (southern states).

Methods to protect your identity:

Since no one can control the actions of third parties there may never be a 100 percent secure method to protect your identity from theft. However, the following are several steps that you should

follow to protect yourself: (1) place secret passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts; (2) secure personal information in your home; (3) utilize security procedures in your workplace, and other institutions that collect your personal information; (4) inquire about disposal procedures for personal records; (5) insist that your personal information not be shared with anyone (individual or entity) without your written permission; (6) do not divulge personal information over the telephone, internet or through the mail; (7) destroy and shred all personal information in your mail (charge receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks and bank statements, expired charge cards and unsolicited credit offers); (8) deposit outgoing mail in a post office collection box; and (9) utilize and update virus and "spy ware" protection software and a firewall program.

Options for military personnel:

Members of the U.S. Military, stationed away from their usual duty station, should place an active-duty alert on their credit reports. The active-duty alert will protect their credit, during deployment, remain in effect for one year and can be extended as needed. It is important to understand that an active-duty alert will remove the servicemember from credit reporting companies' marketing list(s), for pre-screened credit card offers, for two years. In a servicemember's absence, a fiduciary (power of attorney holder) may place or remove an alert on their behalf.

Protecting Your Computer Data

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) suggests there are several things customers should consider to protect data not only when using myPay, but any electronic commerce activity (e.g. on-line banking, credit card purchases, etc.): (1) Install operating system and application software (e.g. Internet Explorer) updates regularly. Many of these updates are issued to fix security problems that have been identified; (2) Install and use anti-virus software and personal firewalls, and keep this software updated; (3) Do not store your various User-IDs and passwords in files on your computer; (4) Do not e-mail personal or financial information; (7) Remember that DFAS does not send e-mail messages asking customers to update or validate information.

National Guard Soldiers Deploy to Iraq

Story and photo by
Maj. Alana Schwermer

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. – More than 600 hundred soldiers of the Los Angeles based 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Battalion bid farewell to family and friends during a ceremony held Mar. 4, 2007, at the Joint Forces Training Base.

The Battalion is home to soldiers from all over California who are deploying to Iraq to provide convoy security during a year-long tour. More than 100 of these Soldiers have previously deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and will be serving their second tour in Iraq.

"The Soldiers are about to embark on a mission that is of vital importance to their country," said Lt. Col. Andrew Rosso, 1st 160th Commander. "In a little more than a year since the units of this battalion returned from overseas deployment, its Soldiers have been asked to serve again."

It will be the first OIF deployment for both Spec. Jose Ramirez, San Jose, Calif. and Spec. Jose Rangel, Newark, Calif. Ramirez, who deployed to the Sinai Peacekeeping Mission in 2005, and Rangel both volunteered to deploy

with the 160th.

"I'm proud and ready to serve my country to protect our freedom" said Rangel.

Both soldiers are fathers and family was on their minds as they prepared for their departure.

"I'm ready to get as much training as possible to make sure I get back safely to my family," Ramirez said. "For me, I want to do my duty so that my two daughters will not

have to fight a war."

The unit will conduct intensive pre-mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., before deploying to southern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I will be asking a lot of these Soldiers in months to come," said Rosso. "The training they are about to begin will be tough and realistic. However, I know that the "Sidewinder" Battalion is up to the task."



Capt. Juan Mora, Commander D Co 1st 160th, leads his company in their deployment formation.



Family members gather to bid farewell to the 1st 160th Infantry Battalion

Tennessee Engineers Volunteer Experiences for SteelCastle

Story and photo by
Sgt. Eddie Siguenza

Add Tennessee to the list of states assisting Joint Task Force VISTA on the southwest border mission.

A platoon of Airmen from the Tennessee National Guard currently contributes to the Golden State's National Guard forces on the California-Mexico border. Close to 50 members of Tennessee's 134th Civil Engineering Squadron, Air Refueling Wing, are linked to Task Force SteelCastle's fence and construction crew.

The unit will remain in California until mid-March, according to Capt. Bryan White, Tennessee's detachment commander.

"We're happy to be here. It's an honor to serve with the engineers of Task Force SteelCastle and OPERATION JUMP START," White said. "We're here to support the mission in any construction improvement, whether it be in roadways, electrical or draining improvement."

The "Volunteer State" came equipped with heavy equipment operators, structural workers and plumbers, to name a few. White credits his unit, saying they're variously experienced in all engineering capabilities.

"This mission helps us get more hands-on training," White added.

Capt. Richard Noyes, executive officer, Task Force SteelCastle, said several out-of-state units will rotate border duties throughout the year. Since OPERATION JUMP START began June 2006, SteelCastle has been assisted by National Guard units from Iowa, Indiana and Pennsylvania, to name a few. A Marine detachment from Camp Pendleton

recently completed a month-long term as well.

"We're happy to have Tennessee

aboard the mission. They'll help us continue or support to the Customs and Border Protection," said Noyes.



Staff Sgt. Ashley Teaster (right) focuses through a surveying machine along the California-Mexico southwest border. At left is Staff Sgt. William Dawson. The duo is a member of the 134th Civil Engineering Squadron of the Tennessee Air National Guard that is in California assisting Joint Task Force Vista.

Guardisman Receives Prestigious Civilian Honor

Story and photo by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza

One of California's citizen soldiers earned an acclaimed honor courtesy of the civilian employer he serves. Sgt. Clemente Arroyo, a Soldier with Joint Task Force San Diego, was recognized by the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) for his assistance to Homeland Security and the global war on terrorism.

The California National Guardsman earned the NDIA Reserve and Guard Award for his dedication to America's safety, says Mike Woiwode, NDIA awards coordinator. "This is something the (NDIA) San Diego chapter does for the past three years," Woiwode explained. "We're giving awards to individuals and people deployed. The idea is to recognize those making sacrifices by being deployed."

From March 2004 to March 2005, Arroyo served with bravo company, 1st of the 160th Infantry Battalion out of Los Alamitos while the unit served in Iraq. Arroyo is currently with the entry identification team at the Brownsfield Customs and Border Protection Station.

His home station is with the 185th Cavalry. He received a \$2,000 honorarium and a special citation. The NDIA consists of defense contractors from across the country that supports the readiness and preparedness of American's military forces. The San Diego Chapter, one of the largest and most active chapters in the country, has traditionally recognized outstanding military performers.

The NDIA's expanded awards program recognizes the important contributions made by the National Guard and Reserve forces. "The participation of our Guard and Reserve members in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as Counter-Drug operations, Homeland Defense and Homeland Security support is so vitally important to this country that it deserves special recognition," Woiwode said.

In Iraq, Arroyo served as a squad leader within his platoon. Finding himself with limited and outdated maps, Arroyo developed strip maps and notes of landmarks to use until proper maps were acquired. He routinely placed himself in danger in order to clear traffic and obstacles; Arroyo allowed

the safe passage of the mounted troops and decreased vulnerability to snipers, improvised explosive devices and VBIEDs.

He brought his team through combat with no injuries, even though they were involved in numerous exchanges of fire with insurgents.



Sgt. Clemente Arroyo of Joint Task Force VISTA poses with wife Linda and daughter Victoria, 3, after receiving the National Defense Industrial Association Reserve and Guard Award for sacrifices made in Iraq 2005 for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Love on the Southwest Border

Story and photo by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza



Newlyweds Sgt. Eric and Spc. Leslie Hille cut a wedding cake recently at the Task Force Phoenix medical clinic.

Not all is military operations on the California southwest border. Sometimes there is love and romance.

Last November, Spc. Leslie Ruelas volunteered to serve on Joint Task Force VISTA, becoming a pharmacy technician with Task Force Phoenix. Two weeks later, Sgt. Eric Hille came aboard. He landed with Task Force SteelCastle's engineering operations section.

They never met prior to the mission and their duty stations split

them several miles apart, but two months later, they married and it has been a blessing ever since.

"More than anything, we started off friends. It progressed into a beautiful relationship quickly," said Spc. Ruelas-Hille, whose uniform now dons her husband's surname. "He's my best friend. He's everything I need. He's my voice; my backbone."

At 27 years old, Sgt. Hille boarded OPERATION JUMP START to ex-

tend a respectful military career that traveled him to Kosovo three years ago. At 19 years young, Spec. Hille still broadens her life in the medical field. Finding love on the southwest border was never an intention, they said. Nor was it the purpose for volunteering.

"When we were in-processing, they said while we're here we're going to meet a lot of people, make new friends. They even said I might meet my wife here," said Sgt. Hille. "When I heard that, I said Ha. And now look at me."

The California Guardsmen met after Sgt. Hille was diagnosed with a medical ailment. She tended to his recovery, running errands and bringing food.

"I don't know, we just hit it off," she said. "He got really sick. I just wanted to see if he was OK. We then became friends."

Their love story garnered blessings and support from the chain of command. In late February, Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Gomez, Joint Task Force VISTA command sergeant major, sparked the romance. He funded a wedding cake and

coordinated a surprise ceremony attended by both medical and engineer sections.

"It's just the right thing to do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gomez. "They're both on the task force. They really haven't had a chance to do something like this. This helps them understand that the Army is part of their family."

"That's honorable. That says a lot about our command, to do something like this," Sgt. Hille replied. But as quickly as they've become one, the road of separation rolled in. Sgt. Hille has since left the mission to deploy overseas. Spc. Hille remains on the task force. They have no doubts on the toll that follows a long-term separation.

"It's a good thing we're both in the military. She understands mobilization. She knows all about why I'll be gone," he said. "I married her because I love her. People think we jumped into this too fast, but Leslie and I just don't want to be apart. We know what we're doing."

They scheduled a bigger wedding and longer honeymoon upon Sgt. Hille's return in 2008.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Defined:

- ★ An intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, physical threat, abuse of authority, coercion, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.
- ★ Includes rape, non-consensual sexual acts, and intimate partner sexual violence.
- ★ Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of victim.
- ★ Sexual assault is a crime punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It violates Military Core Values.

Statistics:

- ★ 1 rape/sexual assault takes place every 53 minutes in California and every 6 minutes nationwide. (CA Attorney General Crime Clock, 2003)
- ★ A study of Navy and Marine Corps men indicated that male-to-male sexual assault was more common in a military setting than in any other setting. (CALCASA, 2003)
- ★ 1 in 3 females has been sexually assaulted.
- ★ 1 in 8 males has been sexually assaulted.
- ★ Half of all sexual assault perpetrators are under 25 years of age and 30% are under 21 years of age. (FBI, 2003)
- ★ Over 75% of sexual assault victims know their perpetrator(s). (US Dept. of Justice, 2003)

Why Report Your Assault:

- ★ Victims who do report often feel stronger knowing they are taking action to stop the assailant.
- ★ You acknowledge what happened to you was wrong, and your report may help to prevent future assaults.

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) provides the unifying vision and voice to all Californians speaking out against sexual violence. CAL-

CASA's leadership at both the state and national level brings support, justice, and hope to victim/survivors of sexual assault, and to those who work to eradicate this perva-

sive problem in our communities. CALCASA works to impact public policy, educate the public, and provide resources to all those working to end sexual violence

To find the nearest Rape Crisis Center, go to:

www.calcasa.org

and type in your zip code.

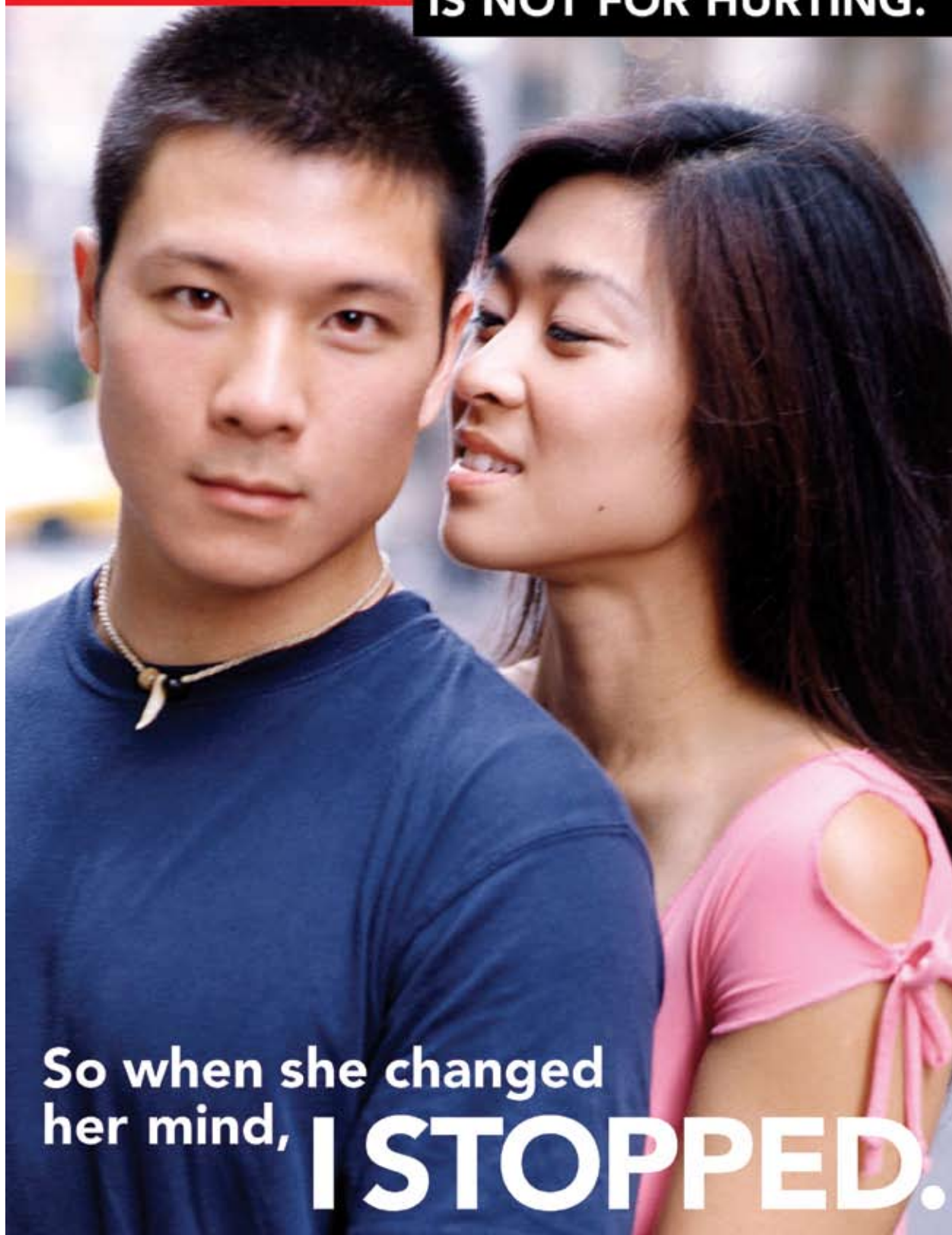
If you have questions regarding this program, please call the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

Mr. Robert May
916-854-3448
robert.may7@us.army.mil



MY STRENGTH

IS NOT FOR HURTING.



**So when she changed
her mind, I STOPPED.**

Men can stop rape.

MyStrength.org

News & Benefits

Keylogging is a Clear-Cut Danger

A small but insidious program hidden within a computer's files or memory or tucked away inside an add-on device can tell the world everything you are doing on your computer. This program, called a keylogger, records every keystroke the computer user makes. The data obtained by keylogging could make its way to an identity thief or end up in an enemy's computer. Soldiers, family members and Department of the Army civilian employees can download free commercial antivirus and firewall software from AKO that will protect their home computers.

<http://www.army.mil/ako/>



Blue Star Mothers Support Troops

Some homes display a unique flag that signifies a family's support of a son's or daughter's service in the military. Those banners represent an old tradition and are part of Blue Star Mothers of America Inc., a patriotic organization that traces its roots back to World War I, when mothers displayed flags decorated with stars signifying the number of offspring serving in the military. Blue Star Mothers chapters routinely send care packages, including cakes and cookies, to support U.S. troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the war against terrorism. For more information, visit the Blue Star Mothers of America website.

<http://www.bluestarmothers.org>

Naval Postgraduate School Offers Master's

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is offering a Master of Systems Analysis (MSA) degree program, which is designed to prepare students to apply critical thinking and analytical skills to support key decision-making. The MSA program is targeted toward Navy unrestricted line officers, but is open to other qualified officers and federal government civilians on an availability basis. This is a distributed learning program with students from across the United States participating. For more information on the MSA program or on applying, visit the Naval Postgraduate School Distributed Learning website.

http://www.nps.edu/dl/NPSO/degree_progs/MSA.html

Army Fields New Neck Gear

The U.S. Army is fielding 430,000 new helmet pads, officially referred to as Nape Pads, designed to better protect Soldiers' neck areas from ballistic fragmentation. The Army will begin shipping the new protective pad immediately to Soldiers deploying in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The new neck pad went through a series of rigorous evaluations before the Army began fielding it. Army Program Executive Office Soldier coordinated testing through a National Institute of Justice laboratory certified in ballistic research.

TRICARE for College Students

If you are enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education and your sponsor provides more than 50 percent of your financial support, you may be eligible for TRICARE coverage until age 23, or when your full-time status ends, whichever comes first. You must be a family member of an active duty or retired servicemember to be eligible for this benefit. Call or visit your nearest uniformed services ID card issuing facility and ask what documentation you will need to extend benefits beyond your 21st birthday. To locate the nearest ID card facility, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/. For a list of TRICARE service centers and contact numbers visit www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare-servicecenters/default.cfm.

New Teacher Legislation in California

A new law that streamlines the process of acquiring teaching credentials has taken effect in California in an attempt to eliminate some of the hoops out-of-state teachers have to jump through to become certified in California. This means those military spouses working as educators in other states, but who then receive orders to relocate to installations within California, will not be forced to requalify by taking the State-standard basic skills exam. Out-of-state prepared teachers will be issued a five-year preliminary multiple subject, single subject or education specialist teaching credential after meeting several requirements. For more information, visit the California Troops to Teachers website and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing website.

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/sb120>

Military Travel

Military life has special privileges! When you travel, you can take advantage of many convenient and inexpensive lodging options available around the world from each branch of the military. There are thousands of rooms available at temporary housing facilities, hotels, resorts, and guesthouses around the world. There are two major categories of military lodging - on-base lodging and Armed Forces Recreation Centers.

http://www.military.com/Travel/Content1/0,,ML_overview,00.html

Air National Guardsmen Gain Online Access

Air National Guardsmen gained access to online personnel services. Through the virtual Personnel Center, Guard and Reserve, Guardsmen around the world are able to correct or change their duty history by logging on anytime to the vPC-GR. To access it, they will need to establish an account by answering a few questions to receive a user name and password. Once an account is established, they click on the "Correct Duty History" link and annotate their desired changes, attach any relevant supporting documentation and click on "submit." For more information about ARPC Personnel Services Delivery, visit <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/psd>.



PHOTO: STAFF SGT. CHARLES JOHNSON

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